

[Andre Jorgenson Anderson]

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Interview - [?] Tales Life History [?]

Gauthier, Sheldon F.

Rangelore

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Andre Jorgensen Anderson, address 1101 Houston St., Fort Worth, Texas was born at Tronhyen, Norway, August 21, 1855. He immigrated to the United States in 1873, locating in Galveston, Texas where he stayed one year. He then came to Fort Worth, Texas where he has made his home since, with the exception of six months time during 1876. His first job in Fort Worth, was working for Miller's blacksmith shop, tinshop and lightning rod agency. Anderson established a gun store in 1877 and has operated the business continuously. At this time [(1938)?] his store is the oldest of all merchandising stores operating in Fort Worth. Most of his trade, during the early days of his business came from customers among the cowboys, ranchmen and buffalo hunters. His first big sale of goods and a bill of \$360.00 for six-shooters and ammunition sold to The Sam Bass gang, noted out-laws of the '70s. Anderson was one of the party of prominent citizens that arranged for and assisted Jim Courtright, a prominent Fort Worth citizen, to escape from three U. S. Marshals and six Texas Rangers. During his early days in Fort Worth, he was shot at and defended himself with a six-gun.

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His story of frontier days follows:

"I was born in [Tronhyen?], Norway, August 21, 1855. Translating the name of my home town into English, we would speak it as Townhome. At the age of 18, I left my native home and started for the United States. I entered the United States at New York, and traveled to Galveston, Texas by rail.

"I remained in Galveston about one year and then came to Fort Worth. C12 - 2/11/41 - Texas 2 I have been a resident of Fort Worth, since my arrival in 1874.

"A man named Miller conducted a blacksmith shop, tinshop and lightning rod agency here at the time, and I secured my first job working for Miller selling lightning rods. This job I took for something to do temporarily. I was attracted to Fort Worth, by rumors of a railroad being extended W. from Dallas into and beyond Fort Worth, immediately. There were many delays and the time when the road would enter Fort Worth, was indefinite.

"I did not intend to remain in Fort Worth, in the event the railroad project was a failure, so far as the immediate time was concerned. While waiting for the railroad question to be settled, I sold lightning rods and made a successful rod salesman. I had an apparatus to demonstrate lightning and could show how the rod was supposed to prevent a building from being struck by the element. But, the facts are, that a building was exposed to lightning by having the rods attached. There was no law being enforced against fraudulent representation of goods those days, otherwise I would have been placed in jail.

"Any man who could sell lightning rods was classed as a super-salesman. Selling rods taught me I could sell merchandise, and the job was the means [of?] teaching me among the most valuable subject of my education. I decided that selling goods was the business I ought to engage in for a livelihood. I decided on Fort [Worth?] as the proper place to established myself, if a railroad built into the town. After considering the characteristic of the people and custom of the day, I decided to operate a gun store.

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"Living in Fort Worth, at the time were a great many live wires - gogetters. Among the most prominent gogetters was one man whom we all admired and who stood at the head as a Fort Worth booster. This man was Captain B. B. Paddock.

"Captain Paddock was our printer. He printed our letter-heads, envelopes, cards and such other printed matter as we needed. He, also, published a newspaper, The Fort Worth Democrat. It was a one sheet, not very large, folded paper presenting four pages.

"Paddock's paper was a booster for Fort Worth. With the aid of his paper, he [inoculated?] the citizens of Fort Worth with the idea of Fort Worth's future as being one with tremendous opportunities. His prediction, these days, was that 'Fort Worth will be a prosperous village of 5000 population.' His prediction proved to be somewhat correct, but he was a little conservative. Just a few hundred short in his estimation of the population.

"Paddock printed, more or less constantly, in one corner of his paper a picture of a wheel. The hub represented Fort Worth and radiating out from the hub was 15 spokes. These spokes represented railroads which would be radiating out from the Fort Worth of the future. This prediction was close to accurate. 4 "Captain B. B. Paddock was a high class man. He was educated, had wisdom and culture. He was a serious minded man and precise, but had humor. He enjoyed a joke and could take one as well as give one. He was splendid company sociable. However he allowed nothing to interfere with his civic work and he was constantly engaged in some move to improve the town. His slogan was, 'let fort Worth be the gateway to the [est?].' Dallas had a railroad and we had none, but the spirit of Fort Worth citizens was to never stop fighting until a railroad entered the town.

"Those days, Paddock had lots of company in his civic efforts. Boosting the town was the avocation of most men. Paddock had an excellent co-worker in a man named Peter Smith. In addition, there was Joe Brown, Eph. Daggett and many others.

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"Peter Smith was the man who raised the money with which to put through the projects. Smith took the lead in raising money [to?] pay bonus to the railroad builders, and he raised thousands of dollars. Eph Daggett gave the railroad 100 acres of land, which is located S. of what is now Lancaster [Ct?]., for the sidetracks, yards, depot and warehouses.

"The civic leaders started to bring a railroad into the town and nothing was too great for them to overcome in order to accomplish their purpose, and the road came.

"Joe Brown, A Scotchman, was our merchant prince. We called him the Merchant Prince. He started in business here with a capital of \$1,500 and after the railroad entered Fort Worth, 5 his grocery business grew until he did four and a fourth million dollar's worth of business a year. A monument of his interprise still stands. It is the three story cut stone building, located at the S. E. corner of Main and Lancaster streets, known as the Brown Block.

"Our mayor was a great man and leader in boosting Fort Worth. He was G. H. Day and operated one of the best saloons in the town. Those days the saloon keepers were among the most prominent leaders of the town. The saloon and gambling houses were among the leading businesses. Consequently, the businesses supplied some of the leading citizens. They rode the best saddle horses and drove the best carriage teams. They dressed with the best of clothes and were men whom the citizens could always depend upon to make a [?] donation to any worthy cause.

"It is a fact, the saloon, gambling houses and queen houses were one of the chief factors contributing to building Fort Worth. I shall recount the reason.

"Fort Worth was surrounded by many cow camps. The vast country W. was practically one cluster of cow camps. Buffalo hunters, numbering in the thousands, were on the plains hunting the buffalo.

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"All the population, especially [?]. of Fort Worth, were more or less isolated. For weeks, and some times months, at a time the cowmen would see nothing but cattle, buffalo, horses and cowboys. There was no diversion for these men where they worked. 6 The natural human desire for diversion and entertainment, caused these men to seek it when they had time off from their work. The town which presented the best variety of entertainment that these men desired, was the town to which the would go.

"These men lived a rough life and enjoyed rough amusement. They gambled with their life every day while at work. Therefore, many of them, also, obtained a thrill gambling for money. The human being, by nature, is a social being, by nature, is a social being and desires company. Men enjoy mixing with his fellow man and engaging in social activities. The cowboy was not interested is pink teas, ping-pong or any other entertainment of that nature. He desired he-man stuff.

"Fort Worth saw to it that the cowboy was furnished the kind of entertainment which amused him. Therefore, here was the various [grades?] of saloons, gambling houses, honkytonks and other similar places of amusement. These places of entertainment attracted people to Fort Worth from hundreds of miles away, and brought millions of dollar's worth of business to the city. Entertainment was about the leading industry of the town during those early days. Without this entertainment, the vast majority of visitors and traders would have gone to [some?] other town. The amusement business not only brought money into Fort Worth, which went into its till, but indirectly, put money into the till of every other line of business.

"The citizens of Fort Worth were compelled to choose between 7 permitting the rough places of amusement to operate or allow the population in the trade territory to go some where else. We permitted the amusement and here came the trade, which built up the town. "The buffalo hunters started haul dried buffalo hides to Fort Worth, in 1875. The hides were [corded?] and held for shipment by rail when the anticipated T. [?]. railroad built into Fort Worth. The N. E. corner of Lancaster and main streets, where the Brown Block

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is now located, was the first buffalo hide yard. After the railroad entered the town, the hide yard was located at the T. P. reservation, the tract of land located S. of the railroad tracks and depot.

“When the buffalo hunters began to haul hides to Fort Worth, almost any time of the day one could see several wagon loads, with trailers attached, arriving from the W.

When I established my gun store in 1877, I located it in the 100 block on E. Weatherford St. I started with a capital of \$15. borrowed money, and have continued in the business since. I am, at this time, the oldest merchandising business in Fort Worth.

I did a tremendous business with buffalo hunters. I have sold around 500 buffalo guns to the hunters during one year's time. The name of these guns were 'Sharps Rifle', and weighed 14 pounds. The barrel of the gun was built in two lengths, 28 and 30 inches long. The price of the gun was \$60. With each gun sold, also, was an average bill of goods consisting of one, 8 or more, keg of powder, about 300 pounds of lead, 3000 primers, a ream of patch paper and loading tools. The total amount of each sale averaged about \$100.

“The younger generation of today, perhaps do not know what patch paper and primers are, so I shall give an explanation of these articles. Patch paper was used to wrap around the bullet before placing it in the shell. Patch paper was conducive to making the bullet follow the rifling of the gun, thus developed more speed. The ammunition was prepared by hand. The bullet molded, powder placed in the shell and the bullet, after wrapping, inserted in the shell. The primers were the igniting apparatus which were set in the end of the shell.

“The buffalo gun was the farthest shooting gun of all guns built those days, and one that the Indian raiders respected. The gun caused the Indian to say, 'white man shot where no see.' Because, with the gun one could shoot over a hill and drop a bullet in the ravine at the opposite side.

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"However, my first large bill of goods sold was bought by Sam Bass's gang, the notorious out-laws of the '70s, which [deprodated?] in the S. W. The total bill was \$360. for pistols an ammunition. The amount was paid for with \$20. gold pieces. My stock of goods was not very large at the time and the sale almost cleaned me out. This sale was made about six months before Sam Bass was killed at Round Rock, Texas, and a week before the gang robbed the bank at Forney, Texas. At the time I 9 "The best class of customers I had were the cowmen. The cowboys bought high class guns. In addition, I enjoyed a satisfactory business from other class of citizens. The following phrases were often repeated those days: 'When God made man he mad him unequal in size. Later, he saw his mistake, and to rectify his error, he had a man named Colts make pistols.' Therefore, in Fort Worth, those days, the gun equalized the size of man, and every body carried a gun. My business thrived.

"To illustrate how the pistol equalized man, I shall relate the Jim Courtright episode.

"Courtright was a man whom everyone admired, and the man was entitled to the respect of those acquainted with him, because he was square.

"He had served as Marshal for the town and had, had an unusual large number of friends among all classes of people.

"Sometime prior to the incident I am to relate, Courtright had gone to the Territory of New Mexico, and did [duty?] as a mine guard. There was some labor trouble and a clash resulted in some of the miners being killed. Courtright returned to Fort Worth after the affray, and established a detective agency.

"One morning a man called at Courtright's office and discussed terms for Courtright's service to apprehend some alleged criminal. Courtright was invited to accompany the [caller?] 10 to the Continental Hotel for the purpose of inspecting some papers the caller alleged he had. [Then?] the caller and he arrived in the hotel room, Courtright was

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disarmed by his caller and two men who were [?] in the room. The three men were U. S. deputies from the Marshal's office in New Mexico. They placed Courtright under arrest on a charge of murder, which was supposed to have taken place during the labor trouble.

"The deputies would not allow Courtright to communicate with anyone, and were [preparing?] to leave with him on the [T?]. P., 6:30 P. M. west bound train.

"Suspicion arose in the minds of Courtright's office help, after he failed to return or send word an hour after he stated he would return. The office help reported the incident to several of Courtright's friends, and a search started immediately. The location and Courtright's situation was soon ascertained. When his friends learned of his [predicament?], they organized a ways and means committee and did a good job of rescuing the man.

"Those days there were no paved streets. The streets were muddy when it rained and dusty when it was dry. The center of population was around the Court House, with the depot about a mile away. It happened to be wet at the time. When time for the train's departure arrived, the depot was crowded with many people outside. Every [hack?] and vehicle available in town was in use transporting people to the depot and many were [compelled?] to walk through the mud to be present. 11 "Judge Head, our District Judge at the time, was among them present at the depot. When the three deputies appeared with Courtright, and application for a writ of habeas corpus was presented to Judge Head. He heard the application at the depot, and signed an order directing the prisoner to be delivered to the custody of the Sheriff of Tarrant Co., pending adjudication of the writ.

"During the interval, between issuing the writ and the hearing on its merits, there was arrangements made to save Courtright. Also, the authorities of New Mexico. demanded from the Governor of Texas, protection for the U. S. Marshals. The Governor assigned six Texas Rangers to protect the men.

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“Judge Head held that the officials were within their rights to have custody of the prisoner, after our Governor had issued extradition papers. The evening arrived for the departure of the Marshals and their prisoner on the 6:00 P. M. T. [P?]. train.

“Those days the largest restaurant in town was Lawson's. It had a 25 foot front and extended back to the alley. In the restaurant were two tables 60 foot long. This restaurant was where officials always took prisoners for meals before entraining. The deputies, accompanied by six rangers, stopped at Lawson's for supper. Lawson seated Courtright at the end of a table with the deputies and rangers on each side. 12 “The restaurant was crowded, all watching nonchalantly, the officers and their prisoner. Some were [eating?] and some were standing around.

“The clock struck six and at this instant, Courtright reached beneath the table and arose to his feet holding a six-gun, Colts .45s, in each hand, which he leveled on the officers. The officers jumped quickly to their feet and reached for their guns, but at the back of each officer were two men. These men each grabbed one arm of an officer, locking the arm behind their back. The officers were held tightly, although some tried to break loose, but found that their captors knew how to put the pressure on the arm. The men whispered in the officers' ears saying, 'don't shoot, don't shoot, because you might hit some innocent person. Of course, there was no need to admonish the officers about shooting, because they were helpless.

“Courtright walked out through he back door. One of [the?] fastest saddle horses in town was hitched in the alley. Courtright mounted the horse and rode away.

“My part in the arrangements was placing the guns at the end of the tables. I hung the guns from screw-eyes, by a light cord which would hold the gun's weight, by break easily. The table cloth hid the guns. The two men which were standing at the back of each officer and locked their arms, were selected for the strength and knowledge of locking arms.

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"The following day Courtright was placed in a dry goods box 13 and shipped express to Galveston. From there he went to New York on the Mallery steamship line.

"The charges against Courtright were investigated and found to be, as he had stated, unfounded. The indictment was dismissed and he returned to Fort Worth, six months after his departure.

"He who lived in Fort Worth those days had to meet many obstacles, but never backed away from meeting and over-coming them. For instance, sickness was rampant before the wells were dug, and people took their supply of water from the Trinity River.

"Typhoid fever was prevailing to some extent at all times, until the wells were sunk.

Water was hauled to the Public School in barrels from the river. The school was a two story building located at [Weatherford?] and Elm streets. This water kept the children sick and the citizens decided that they must sink a well. Finally an [artesian?] well was dug, followed by others, and the citizens secured their water from these wells then typhoid ceased to take its toll of lives.

"After the wells were sank, we improved our Fire Department. A man named Peters was the well digger. He put down one well adjacent to Main St., near the Court House, and another on Houston Street, used exclusively for fire purpose. The town bought a fire engine and a hook-and-ladder truck. The department was made up of volunteers, with the exception of a paid man who attended to the horses. 14 "I must relate one part of the fire alarm system. As has been stated, everyone carried a gun, and when the bell at the fire hall rang, everyone began to shoot. Therefore, when one heard shots coming from every direction and sounded as though a major battle was being fought, then one knew that fire was existing somewhere. Simultaneously, with the shooting, one would see people running from all directions towards the fire hall. The first fire hall was a two story

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building, 25 feet front and 90 foot deep. The building was combination fire hall, City Hall and Municipal Court.

“Those day cowboys could be seen every where in pairs and groups. There had been a wooden sidewalk laid for about a block each way running pass my store. I could hear the jingling a block away as the boys slept on the side walk. I could tell if there was one man or crowd. Many passed my place of business. I have seen as many as 50 in one crowd passing my place on their way the Waco Tap honkytonk, which was located near my store.

“The Waco Tap was a notorious place. It was a two story building with 20 rooms on the second floor. There was a stove pipe extending through the roof from each room. From a distance it appeared as a factory. The stove pipes and the second story could be seen from the depot. Many strangers, upon alighting from a train have asked about the nature of the factory. 15 “The Waco Tap had a long bar extending almost the entire length of the saloon. There was dance floor in the center of the main floor and the four corners each contained some gambling game. One corner contained roulettes, one stud [poker?], one a money game and the other a game called bird cage.

“The place employed a regular dance caller. Dancing was almost all square dances. Each dance was cut short and the last call to the dancers by the caller was [promenade?] your [partner?] to the bar for a drink. The queans received a percentage on all drinks they boosted to the bar, and the girls generally called for the most expensive drink.

“Usually, the last act for the night was a farewell gesture done by shooting off guns, and many times the lights were the targets for the shots.

“After leaving the places of amusement, many of the cowboys would mount their horses and ride towards camp, going through the street yelling 'yip-pee,' and shooting their guns.

'There was an average of about one person a week killed in the dance hall of the town. Things were dull if a week passed without at least one shooting affray.

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"I lived through those days without any trouble with one of a committee to arbitrate a matter. A certain party called at my store and offered me a bribe to influence me in behalf of parties involved in the issue. The fellow's acting angered me and I gave him a sound threshing. The party believed in the [?] equalizer. He sent me word we would settle the affair with guns. 16 I returned an answer to the effect, that if it was necessary I was ready.

"A couple of weeks after this I was shot at by a man in hiding. I made a run for the location from where the shot came, with a drawn gun. I failed to see anyone. This ended the shooting of my dispute. However, for a year I kept my eyes open for a man that might be hiding as I went to and fro. 1 Gauthier, Sheldon F.

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ANDRE J. ANDERSON'S

Supplementary Story

"The theater called the Centennial was run by a man named Low. It was located at about Eleventh and [Rusk?] (New Commerce) streets, and was one of the major attractions of the town during the period from the middle '70s to the early '80s.

"Low was a man about six feet tall, weighing about 180 pounds, with an excellent physique. I can best describe the man by saying he was an Adonis type man. Low always dressed immaculately, and wore expensive jewelry with diamonds being conspicuous conspicuous . He was affable and knew how to handle people so he might secure his way.

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"Low was generous and enjoyed treating his friends. He made frequent trips visiting other saloons and treated the crowd. Also, he was liberal with [donations?] to charity and to public subscriptions for various purposes.

"A story was often told about Low which I shall repeat. It gives some light on the man's nature. When he made his visits to other saloons, he frequently gave complimentary tickets to his theater, but he always bestowed this gift on men, as a rule cowmen, with plenty of money. Low had bouncers to support the ticket takers in the event some one tried to put one over on the doorman. A certain mark on the complimentary ticket would cause the ticket taker to refused to honor the ticket. This act always resulted in angry words and some small scraps, but at the proper moment 2 Low always appeared to settle the matter. The ticket takers would always received a severe reprimand from Low, for not recognizing a gentleman. He would deliver a talk on the esteemed position the gentlemen held in the community, and would demand that such incident not happen again. This act always satisfied the pride and touched the vanity of the holder of the complimentary ticket. Always, there was reciprocation by the gentlemen by way of spending money freely to prove to the crowd that Low was correct in his estimation.

"Now, to describe the kind of a place he operated.

"Low operated a girl show theater, dance hall and gambling games. On the ground floor was the bar and dance hall. The dancing floor was in the center of the room. The theater was at the rear of the bar and dance hall. Gambling was operated on the second floor. Also, the rooms occupied by the [actresses?] were located on the second floor. Above the first floor was a gallery, extending around the major part of the room. The actresses would sit in the gallery when not engaged in their acts on the stage. The acts were of the [scurrileus?] type and very suggestive, and for men only. No ladies would attend the theater unless disguised, which many did and enjoyed the show.

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"The customers, mostly cowboys, would visit the actresses in the gallery. These women had a system of selling their visitors a key to their room. If one bought a key, he would have the privilege of treating the actress in her room, paying \$1.00 a bottle 3 for beer and other drinks at the same [ratio?] in price, and be undisturbed during the visit.

"During this period, I operated a gun store, also I did gun-smithing and particular mechanical work. I was called on for repairing gambling devices. For instance, the roulette wheels for Low and other gambling proprietors.

"The roulette table contains a number of numbered compartments into which a small ball drops after spinning around the wheel. These compartments are just large enough to receive the ball. The bottom of a major part of these compartments were fixed so as to be movable and could be raised slightly. The operation of the compartment floors was done by means of a small lever and wire cables which were concealed. These wires ran to the floor. The device was manipulated with feet of the gaming operator. It was these devices, and others, which I repaired.

"Suppose a heavy bet was made on the double 0, if the ball started to drop into the double 0 compartment, manipulation of the section's floor would cause the ball to roll to the adjacent compartment. The only way a player could win was for the operator to become paralyzed in his feet, and I never knew of such to happen.

"Once in a while one would hear of some fellow winning a large stake, but generally it was some party connected with the gambling business, and the winning act was put on for advertising purposes. Frequently, a player would be allowed to win a small amount, and this was done to encourage the players. 4 "Those days certain people of the town would take a [spasm?] of righteousness and demand that gambling be stopped on the Sabbath day. Occasionally, the officials would concede a point and send forth an order to stop gambling on the Sabbath day and to close all places where gambling was operated. Such orders would hold forth until the spasm cooled, which generally took three or four weeks.

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"Low had his gambling apparatus arranged so he could move it easily. Therefore, when an order would be received to close all gambling places on the Sabbath day, Mr. Low moved his gambling paraphernalia out of his establishment, and continued to operate the rest of his business on the Sabbath. This act of Low caused [vehement?] protest, but the officials were of the opinion that when the gambling paraphernalia was moved out of the establishment, it ceased to be a gambling house. Monday morning gambling resumed.

"The White Elephant was the most magnificent place in Fort Worth those days. It was located between Third and Fourth Streets on Main. It was a saloon, gambling house, and restaurant. There were no queens connected with the White Elephant. Before its opening, the place was advertised to be one of the finest combination saloons, gambling houses and restaurants, without any exceptions.

"Those days ladies did not frequent saloons, but the good ladies of Fort Worth could not resist taking a look at the White Elephant during its opening night, and a large number came to look at the place. 5 "On the opening night there was a ceremony arranged and everybody was invited to be the guest of the proprietors. The proprietors were two men who came here from South Texas.

"The people who accepted the invitation, and almost all our good citizens did, were served with champagne to drink, and any other drink they desired. The restaurant served the most delicious of dishes to the guests, and everybody had a joyful night.

"The opening started off with a ceremonial, consisting of a speech of welcome by one of the proprietors. In concluding his talk, he threw the key of the place away into the street. This act was symbolical of [perpetual?] service to be rendered to the citizens of Fort Worth. There were speeches made by officials of the town, to the effect that we were proud to have such a magnificent establishment to serve our citizens, and that it showed that Fort Worth was on its way to be a bigger and better place in which to live.

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“After the ceremony the festivities started. The program was eat, drink and be merry. It was all on the house, so why worry. Those who desired to try their luck at the various games were accommodated. However, it required money to play, but the games ran steadily and there was a waiting list.

“Upon entering the White Elephant, the people saw a filigree mahogany wood bar and back-bar. All the glassware was cut-glass of the highest grade, and stacked high on the back-bar. There was a large display of imported and domestic wines, liquors and cordials. The bartenders were dressed immaculately and in white 6 jackets, shirts, collars and bow-ties.

“Leading from the barroom was wide stairway running to the second floor where the gambling room was located. On this stairway was laid the very best of carpet. At the entrance to the gambling room was medium size table on which was stacked gold and silver coins, standing about six inches high. A uniformed man stood guard at this table.

“The men selected to run the various gambling games were chosen for their good looks as well as ability to operate a game. The excellent appearance of these men was the general talk among the ladies. Every game operator was dressed in a suit custom-made from the highest grade of cloth. They were white stiff-front shirts with a conspicuous diamond stud in the bosom, a conspicuous diamond ring on their finger, and the charm which hung from their watch chain also contained a diamond. Those men were groomed in the latest of the day. Therefore, they presented an attractive appearance, and so much so that many of the ladies of the town [vied?] with each other to receive the attention of these same operators, and to the envy of the cowboys.

“There was no charge for drinks to the patrons of the gambling room, and there were no restrictions to the kind of drinks served. The rule was to let the patrons drink and be merry, because the devices controlling the gaming tables took care of the proprietors. In addition, the more the patrons drank the more reckless they became with their money.

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Therefore, the free drinks were a good investment. 7 “The restaurant was manned with colored waiters, also, dressed immaculately. In the restaurant one again saw high grade cut-glass. Everything was spotless about the tables and set with excellent silverware.

“At the other end of the saloon grade was the First and Last Chance saloon. It was located on Front Street (new Lancaster) across from the old depot. This was the place the 'cinches' patronized. It was the kind of a place patronized by the fellow who felt at home where he could [expectorate?] on the floor at will, where he could sit down on the floor or lie down in a corner, and if one became too drunk for [locomotion?] there was a room where one was placed until sobered. This saloon had one large room used for placing the drunks. The room contained no furniture and men just lay on the floor.

“I have seen this drunker's room packed like sardines in a can. In fact, I have seen men lying one on top of another.

“All these men knew they would be robbed of their money, if they kept it on their person and became drunk. Therefore, many of them would give their money to the proprietor for safe keeping. The proprietor would keep a memorandum of the drinks served to the owner of the money. At least this was the understanding. When one of these men finished his drunk and called for his money he would be handed a memorandum instead of money, except enough to get back home, if he lived out of town. 8 “It seemed to me, the proprietor [reasoned?] that these men would remain drunk so long as their money lasted. Being that it was best for the man to cut his drunk short, the proprietors used their pencil to good advantage for themselves and for the general health of the drunk.